

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H.
Perkins Jr.

Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
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address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
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Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Politics is, at best, a confusing spectacle and not for the faint of heart. Politicians often intentionally make it so. Sometimes it seems that the American political roller coaster was designed to make us so nauseated on our first ride that we won't want to come back for more. The ideas just don't make sense, and the words are carefully chosen to preserve ambiguity.

Even seasoned journalists and grizzled political watchers can get intellectual vertigo from the excess verbiage ricocheting around the room at the speed of sound. *Is he for that legislation, or is he against it? What did he just say, and what did it have to do with what I just asked him?*

One thing is for sure, however. The historical and journalistic recording of politician's pronouncements often make them sound foolish and reveal to the rest of us the hidden agendas on behalf of which they are working so passionately. The proposed Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) to the U.S. Constitution is a prime example.

The FMA is a simple statement that marriage in the U.S. should be limited to the union of one man and one woman. The debate that preceded its 2004 defeat in the U.S. Senate would lead one to believe the fate of the free world hung in the balance. Opponents of FMA ultimately staked their arguments on one basic premise, to wit:

• "Marriage, as I have argued, is an issue best left to the States in our constitutional framework." — Joe Lieberman (D-Conn). Floor Statement in Opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment, July 14, 2004.

• "As news reports have made clear, states across the nation — including Massachusetts — are already dealing with the issue, doing it effectively, and doing it

according to the wishes of the citizens of their states." — Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). Floor Remarks, July 14, 2004.

• "I don't believe a constitutional amendment reserving the right of marriage to a man and a woman is properly before us because I believe that is an area clearly relegated to the States, and the States are exercising that right." — Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.). Floor Remarks, July 12, 2004.

• "I support civil unions between same-sex couples and believe that each state should be free to make its own decision on this issue." — Lincoln Chaffee (R-R.I.). Floor Remarks, February 24, 2004.

So FMA was defeated on the soothing note that the states could decide the issue on their own, and many states including Mississippi indeed enacted amendments defining marriage. All's well that ends well, right? We can all take heart from the politicians' newfound respect for the will of the people, right?

Fast forward to May 12 of this year: U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon of Nebraska threw out that state's constitutional amendment defining and limiting marriage to the union of one man and one woman, even though the amendment passed by a 70%-30% margin. Federal challenges to several other states' similar amendments are pending. The fate of Mississippi's marriage amendment, while not yet formally challenged, could hang in the balance.

What happened to all the politicians' fanciful words about protecting the states' ability to decide such issues on their own? Where is their passionate defense of the people's right to make their own laws? All is forgotten. The FMA is dead for now,

"I REALLY THINK I'D MAKE YOUR CHURCH AN IDEAL PASTOR. I DON'T SMOKE OR DRINK OR EAT MUCH OR PREACH ON CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS."



and activist judges will continue to subvert the people's will despite the assurances of the politicians.

The moral of this story is that Christians must continue to be immersed in this country's marketplace of ideas and debate, and we must learn not to give in to the lies and deceptions that have led to the defeat of moral and civic issues we deem important. When an issue as critical as FMA comes before the country, we should stand our ground and not be beguiled by the high-sounding rhetoric of our opponents.

Of course, Christians shouldn't go overboard and resort to the inappropriate tactics of our opponents, but we must not be afraid to speak loudly and clearly to the future of this country. If we do any less, we will receive our just reward.

GUEST OPINION:

Using God's people to support BCV

By Chrystelle Thame
Director of Public Relations
Baptist Children's Village



great God who provides for their every need.

Today God uses His people to provide volunteers to maintain appropriate shelter and dollars to provide food and clothing and educational needs. Some provide salaries for Christian professionals to meet emotional and spiritual needs of children in the care of BCV. Still others serve as host families, opening their homes to children and teenagers who need to experience a loving home environment.

On June 4, BCV will be the recipient of more generosity. Three Gospel groups — The Next Generation, of Magee; Hosanna, of Magee; and Embrace, of Brandon — will come together for a benefit

concert hosted by Puckett Church, Puckett, at 7:00 p.m.

This celebration will be held in memory of Mississippi's 2003-04 Junior Miss, Beth Finch, who lost her life in a car accident in September 2004. Beth, a Mississippi College student, served as emcee of a 2003 benefit concert for BCV provided by Sonrise Gospel Promotions. According to Beth's mother, she always had a heart for people, especially children.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Steve Walker of Pinola, full-time music evangelist. The Next Generation, a ministry of Sonrise Gospel Promotions and host group for this benefit concert, also performed for the BCV Alumni Reunion in 2004 and has hosted

two other benefit concerts in Mississippi on behalf of BCV. Embrace, a nationally-recognized southern Gospel trio, will be featured on June 4 as well as Hosanna, an all-male quartet that has participated in previous concerts to benefit BCV.

Yes, the needs of children and families in Mississippi are different today than they were in 1897, but the way God chooses to provide for those needs is the same — His people. The Baptist Children's Village is cognizant every day of the enormous need throughout our state, and of the army of people God uses to provide.

Admission to the concert is free and a love offering will be taken. All proceeds from the event go to support The Baptist Children's Village. Sponsors of the event are Sonrise Gospel Promotions, Gray-Daniels Ford of Brandon, and Peoples Bank of Puckett. For more information, call (601) 847-5339.

Thame is a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and can be contacted at P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060. Telephone: (601) 922-2242. E-mail: cthame@baptistchildrensvillage.com. Web site: www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Canadian bishop's remarks draw scrutiny

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada (BP) — A Catholic bishop in Canada is under investigation by a government agency for condemning gay marriage, and American conservatives say such infringements on religious freedom could be headed to the U.S.

The bishop, Fred Henry of Calgary, is being investigated by the Alberta Human Rights Commission for comments he made about homosexuality in both a letter to parishioners and a Calgary Sun newspaper column. Two homosexuals filed the complaints.

In the newspaper column, which stated basic Christian doctrine, Henry wrote, among other things, "Since homosexuality, adultery, prostitution and pornography undermine the foundations of the family, the basis of society, then the State must use its coercive power to proscribe or curtail them in the interests of the common good." He also argued that behind the push for gay marriage is a desire to have society accept homosexuality.

If found guilty, Henry could be fined — and religious expression will take a big hit.

Gay marriage is legal in seven of 10 Canadian provinces and one of three territories. While Alberta has yet to legalize gay marriage, provincial law nonetheless bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. That includes public statements and publications. The Human Rights Commission is the government body that investigates complaints.

Bruce Clemenger, president of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, said that even if the complaint is dismissed,



homosexual activists will have won a small victory. "Even the launching of a complaint itself raises deep concerns," Clemenger told Baptist Press.

"It sets a troubling and a dangerous precedent. Will people of faith be able to express religious views on sexual morality without the threat of legal sanction? Even having a complaint filed means [the bishop] needs to bring in lawyers, begin preparing response. It's in some ways an attempt to intimidate or silence him, when in fact what he was doing is expressing some of the basic teaching of the Catholic Catechism."

Henry vowed to fight the complaint. "Those that support same-sex marriage want to shut the churches out of this important debate," he said at a press conference in late March, according to Canadian Press. "Those who favor same-sex marriage have been given a full opportunity to state their views on the issue but now they are saying anyone

who speaks out against same-sex marriage is discriminating against homosexuals."

Carol Johnson, one of the homosexuals who filed a complaint, said she was concerned Henry's letter and column would expose homosexuals to "hatred or contempt."

"These remarks are particularly dangerous when made by a person in a position of trust and authority," Johnson wrote in her complaint.

Social conservatives, though, say the incident is an example of what happens when homosexuality is put on the same level of protection as race, age and disability. In the United States, 16 states prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, according to the homosexual group Lambda Legal. Thirteen of those ban discrimination in housing.

Illinois is the latest to pass a sexual orientation law. Peter LaBarbera, executive director of the Illinois Family Institute, said Canada should serve as a warning to American conservatives.

"Once you get same-sex marriage, then it becomes hard to stop any other aspect of the gay agenda," he told BP. "That's the part that people are forgetting."

Religious freedoms already have been set back in Canada in recent years. In 2002 an Ontario court ruled that a Toronto printer violated the human rights code when he refused to print stationery for a homosexual activist group. He was fined \$5,000. In another case, the

Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission fined a man \$4,500 for running a newspaper advertisement condemning homosexuality. The ad included biblical references.

Because of the fear of fines, Focus on the Family's Canadian radio programs occasionally must have references to homosexuality edited out before they are broadcast. Canadian Christian television also keeps an eye on its programming.

Last year, Canada's Parliament passed a bill placing "sexual orientation" in the criminal code classes protected against hate speech. The bill is now law.

"Clearly, the government and judiciary in Canada are poised to rule in favor of gay rights over rights to express religious convictions," Kermit Rainman, social research analyst for Focus on the

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE



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Nashville tours set

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist messengers visiting Nashville for their convention's annual meeting on June 21-22 will have the opportunity to tour the LifeWay Christian Resources buildings and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) building, which is home to the Executive Committee, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Seminary Extension. Tours of both buildings will be conducted June 18-22 (Saturday through Wednesday): LifeWay buildings — June 18 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; June 19 from 1-5 p.m., and June 20-22 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. SBC building — June 18 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; June 19 from 1-5 p.m., and June 20-22 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Visitors to the SBC building will have an opportunity to view a 15-minute film, shown every half hour, chronicling early Southern Baptist history. Guides dressed in character such as George Truett will lead visitors through a historical display of rare holdings of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. The exhibition, One Sacred Effort: The story of Baptists, highlights the history of Baptists, particularly the story of Southern Baptists. A featured item in the exhibit is the volume containing the original handwritten proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1845 to 1863. Guests also may visit the offices of the SBC Executive Committee and receive a free photograph provided courtesy of Olan Mills Portrait Studios commemorating their visit to the SBC and LifeWay buildings. At LifeWay, visitors may take a self-guided tour of the world's largest Christian book and church materials publisher while viewing historical showcases and listening to information on headsets or audio wands. Messengers and their families will get a firsthand look at the work LifeWay carries out in their behalf around the world. On June 20 from 2-5 p.m., visitors to the SBC building will be able to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee. Shuttles will be available to take visitors from the Gaylord Entertainment Center — the site of the annual meeting — to the SBC building.

Looking back

10 years ago

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, states that unless the SBC restructures, "... we will fossilize and become a denominational dinosaur in the sands of time."

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood's disaster relief van is requested to serve as the first aid station in Columbus during official ceremonies marking the opening of the multi-billion dollar Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway through east Mississippi.

30 years ago

Mississippi Baptists took the initial step toward a long-range assembly program when the State Convention Board voted to take an option on an assembly site located on the coast, according to state secretary-treasurer Chester Quarles.



A KITE IN A TREE

Recently, I was walking across the parking lot on my way in to the church when something caught my eye, and I looked up and there up in a tree was a beautiful kite. I mean it was a kite with a tail flapping in the morning breeze. I paused for a moment just looking at the kite that was hanging there on a limb and that's all it did. In fact, as I was leaving after church I looked up and there it was in the same spot going nowhere and doing nothing but being hung up in the tree. Both coming and going I thought to myself, "How sad that is for a kite is not made to be stuck in a tree. It was made to fly, to rise and fall, and to explore the outer limits of a kid's world in space." This one was stuck in a tree.

I observed two things that had affected this kite. One, it was detached from the string and the other thing that I noticed was that it was in the wrong place. Both of those things were probably related and one could happen before the other or the other before the other. Whichever other comes first usually the result is not going to be good. I went on into the church thinking about how much like some Christians that kite appeared to be. It looked okay. It just wasn't doing anything and for sure it was not doing what it was made to do.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The two obvious things that happened to that kite happen to some of the Lord's people and the results are not good. Just for instance, when people get detached from the Lord and His church you can almost predict the outcome. I am not passing judgment when I say that when people fall by the wayside and drop out of church you can almost graph and watch the downward spiral of their life take place. When Thomas was not meeting with the disciples he became a cynical doubter. When Demas got disconnected from the Lord and His people, he fell in love with the world. When the rich young ruler walked away from Jesus, he was engulfed with sadness.

The other part of the problem with the kite is that it was where it should not be — stuck in the limbs of a tree rather than soaring to new heights of beauty. The biographical sketches of that reality can be seen in dozens of biblical characters and thousands of people we may

have read about or seen. When he should have been in battle, David was at home lust after Bathsheba. When Samson should have been living out his life with integrity, he was playing games with a woman who wanted to see not just the secret of his strength but the cause for his failure. When Lot faced the opportunity and option of going in a direction that would be good for his family, he chose to walk in the direction of Sodom and destruction. When saints choose to go to a place where they should not be, they end up stuck in places, spaces, and situations that not only harm but also render them helpless. Many of us have not only seen that but in the vernacular of today have been there and done that. It is not as though we have any right to stand and point a finger at the other kites stuck in the trees, for at times they have been us.

Both coming and going I looked at the kite and thought, "Man that is a nice

kite!" I thought to myself, "If I could get that down I could help that kite, use that kite, enjoy seeing it fly," but it was far, far out of my reach. For many of us that is the dilemma with which we live and while we want to help, redeem, restore, and reclaim, we are unable to reach and to help those who have been stuck, disconnected, and caught in the wrong places in life. I know that sometimes the church receives criticism for not being what the church ought to be in reaching out to folks and helping them get where they need to be and reconnected. Try as we might they are out of our reach. Even then we must not forget and in fact, we must focus on the fact that they are not out of God's reach. While we may love them, God almighty loves them even more and while we may try to help God is still alive, active, involved, longing, loving, and wanting to see what He has made them to become. Maybe even at this moment God has brought to your mind someone who is like a kite stuck in a tree. Pause and lift them up to God, who is able to reach and help dislodge them from the clutches that hold them so that by His grace they can be connected and fly again.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

HOECOMINGS & REVIVALS

West Shady Grove, Wayne County: Homecoming, June 5, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Grant McLain, speaking; Ervin Mooney, pastor.

Hebron, Pheba: Homecoming, June 5; worship at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Andy Parrish, speaking; Ray Spence, pastor.

Antioch Church, Lawrence Association: Homecoming, May 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds and special music; Lonnie Case, speaker; Chosen, music; Tim Roberts, pastor.

Concord Church, McCall Creek: Homecoming, May 22; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and service, 1:15 p.m. Gil Barrow, speaker.

Jupiter Church, Simpson Association: Homecoming, May 22; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services; G. A. McCoy and Gary Strehlow, speaking; Bruce Jolly, pastor.

Shalom Church, Silver Creek: Revival, May 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; lunch, noon; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker, Doug Saxon, pastor.

followed by fellowship meal and afternoon singing; Terry Rhodes, pastor.

Clear Springs Church, Coffeeville: 100 year anniversary, June 5.

Bethel Church, Oxberry: Homecoming, May 29;

worship, 11 a.m., potluck dinner following; afternoon singing by Justin Pickle and the Kilgore Sisters.

New Zion Church, Crystal Springs: Homecoming and Revival, May 22-25; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7

p.m.; Frank Pollard, preaching; Ian Richardson, music; Norris Curry, pastor.

Mesa Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, May 29; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish meal; song service. Greg Griffin, preaching; Bill Dillon and friends, music.

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Dr. Ken Hemphill
8:30 am



Dr. Richard Ross
9:45 am



Dr. Jimmy Draper
11:00 am

Attention All Convention attendees!

**Join us for Convention
Sunday, June 19
First Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet, TN**

**Delicious catered meal following the services
for \$5 per person, \$20 per family. FBC Mt.**

**Juliet, TN is approximately 20 minutes east of
downtown Nashville. Take I-40 east to exit
226-B (North Mt. Juliet Rd.) and go one half
mile north of the interstate. To register for
the meal or for more information, please call
the church at (615) 754-2525, or email us at
info@fbcmj.org.**

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 19, 2005

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.



May 26, 7 p.m.

Purvis

Lamar County
Multi-Purpose Building

May 27, 7 p.m.

Greenville

Washington County Convention
Center Arena Barn

May 28, 7 p.m.

Verona

Lee County Agricultural Center

***“As for me and my
horse, we will ride
for the Lord.”***

Sponsored by Lamar
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Obedience and Love.
Come and witness the
training of an unbro-
ken horse to accept
rope, bridle blanket,
saddle and rider.**



WMU
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bags for Ridgecrest!*

Mississippi wMu is sponsoring two bus trips to

**the Discover the Joy of
Missions Conference and
Missions Weekender at
LifeWay Ridgecrest
Conference Center.**

“Bus Trip A” will be attending both the training conference and missions weekender. **“Bus**

Trip B” will only attend the
missions weekender.

Twenty-nine passenger buses are
provided by Cline Tours.

Bus Trip A

Sept. 27 - Oct. 2
Includes program fee,
conference lodging
(double occupancy)
and transportation
\$600 per person

**PRICE
UPDATE**

Bus Trip B

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2
Includes program fee,
conference lodging
(double occupancy)
and transportation
\$450 per person

Registration Deadline: July 27
No refunds after August 1. Substitutions allowed.
Contact the state wMu for more info: 1-800-748-1323
or 601-292-3319 or www.mbc.org

OLDER CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL CAMP 2005



JULY 7 - 9

CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

For Church Groups of Boys and Girls
Grades 3 – 6 (completed)
Registration Forms May Be Mailed
After March 1, 2005

\$45 Deposit with Registration

Total Cost \$90

Camp Bible Skills & Studies based on
Children's Bible Drills'

RED CYCLE for 2005-2006

Any Mississippi Baptist Church can bring their children and they will profit from camp whether they have ever done Bible Drill or not. Each church group must have a male counselor (21 or older) for every 7 boys (or portion thereof) and a female counselor (21 or older) for every 7 girls (or portion thereof). Church counselors are with their children during all camp activities.

CAMP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Bible Study
- Worship
- Swimming
- Riding
- Scripture Memorization
- Time with Missionaries
- Canoeing
- Rifle Range (safety & marksmanship)
- Bible Drill Skills
- Flag Ceremonies
- Horseback

Check-in at camp is at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 7.

For questions about camp program:
contact Don Hicks in Discipleship & Family Ministry
at 1-800-748-1651 or dhicks@mbcb.org.

When Good People Pray



A View from the Branch

Drama Leaders

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

Mississippi Coliseum

July 22, 2005 - 6:15-9:00

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Prayer experiences led by youth minis

God's
Pray



Lauren Enswiler
Worship Leader

Capitalist

High

in, Jackson

00 1000

2.01

ministers.

Central Hills

SUMMER CAMPS 2005

LAD & DAD WEEKEND CAMPS

for campers in grades 5K-3 and their dads

June 24-25
July 15-16

Total Cost: \$42.50 per camper or
\$85 for an adult and child

SUMMER MISSION CAMPS FOR BOYS

for campers in grades 3-12

June 20-24 July 18-22
June 27-July 1 July 25-29
July 11-15

Total Cost: \$130 per camper

CHILDREN'S MISSION CAMPS (COED)

for campers in grades 1-6

June 13-15
10 a.m., Monday - noon, Wednesday
June 16-18
10 a.m., Thursday - noon, Saturday

Total Cost: \$90 per camper

Note This!

**Each camper (adult and child) will complete
a Registration-Health-and-Information Form.**

This form is available from your church,
association office and Central Hills.

Total Cost Includes:

Registration fee, lodging and meals, limited
supplemental insurance and camp supplies

For more information, contact

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

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E-mail: dramage@mbc.org

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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer

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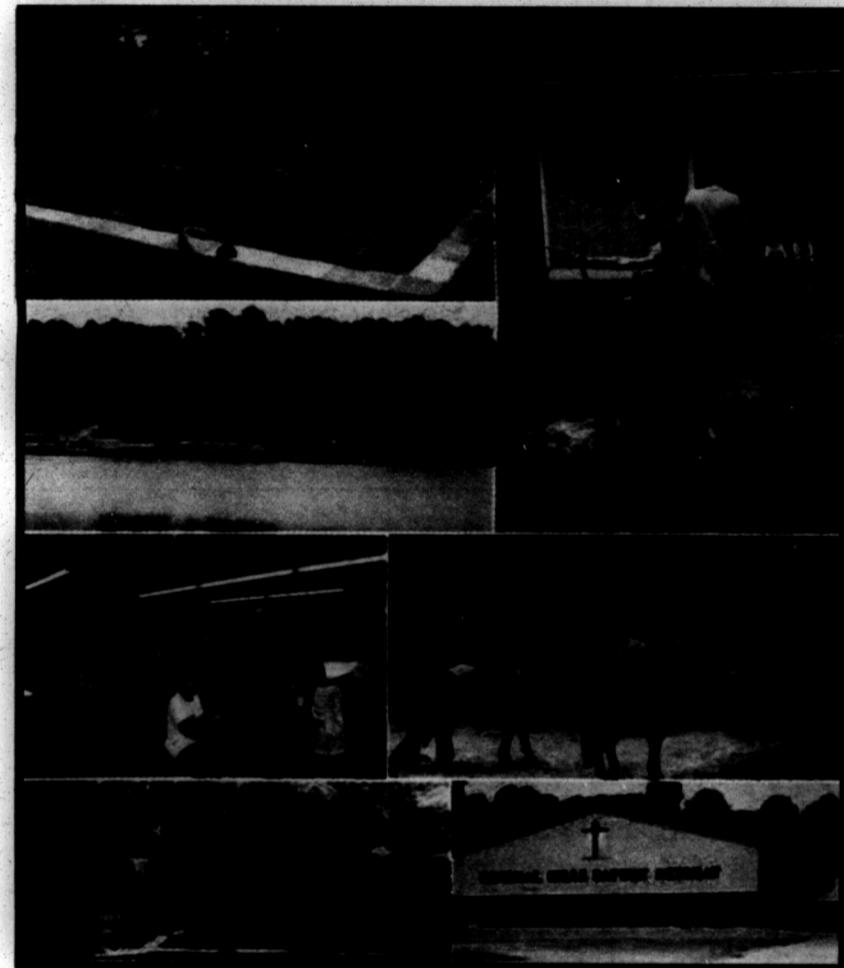
Jim Didlake, director
James O. Ray, camp manager

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL CAMP FOR BOYS & GIRLS

for campers in grades 3-6

July 7-9

Total Cost: \$90 per camper



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May 20-June 9, 2005

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"Power with God is the highest attainment of the life of full abiding."

Andrew Murray

WITH CHRIST IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

The Unreached Peoples Team, among Rumelian Turks of Bulgaria, continues to look for a location/facility where they can begin a Church Starting Institute. Ask the Lord to supply the place in His time. Pray that God will lead Jeffrey H as he searches for a national partner to help lead this project.

An unreached Muslim people groups is the Qazi. There are 1,134,783 without any known Christians among them. They live in the countries of India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Their primary language is Urdu. Scripture and gospel recordings are available in their language. Pray that they will respond positively to God's invitation to receive eternal life.

Shirley Cox, Mt. Vernon, Ky., is a photojournalist in Kentucky. Pray that each writing will reflect the glory of God. Pray for leadership and direction, and for God's character to reflect through her writings.

For: (1) I Youth Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 23rd - 27th (Youth Ministry); (2) The divorce rate in China increased by 21 percent last year. 1.6 million couples ended their marriages in 2004. Pray that Christians in China will model godly marriages and teach the importance of Christian homes.

For: (1) Memorial Day; (2) II Youth Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 30th - June 3 (Youth Ministry); (3) GA Camp Staff Orientation, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, June 30 - 31; (4) Pray today for President Joseph Kabilo of Democratic Republic of the Congo (central Africa, northeast of Angola).

For: (1) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, 6th-10th (WMU); (2) This is a difficult time for Western Niger Fulani. The rains have not started, and the food from last year's crop is running out. Pray for God's marvelous deeds and glory to be declared among them and that they will declare His glory among the nations.

For: (1) Mission Mississippi Prayer Breakfast, Chapel, MBCB, 6:45-7:45 a.m. (CAC); (2) Freddie L. Arnold is a church planter in New Orleans. Please pray for God to call out a church planter to start a new work among the Vietnamese people in New Orleans.

Pray for the ongoing Bible distribution taking place among "old world religion" households in downtown Buenos Aires. Pray that these free New Covenants (New Testaments) will be received and read, and that many will come to know Jesus as Messiah and Lord.

For: (1) IV Youth Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 7th-11th (Youth Ministry); (2) This month new ISC workers Barry and Scarlett will complete their orientation at MLC, Rockville, Va., in preparation for service in Uganda. Pray that God will give them wisdom in developing new relationships in learning the heart language and culture.

Pray for a college student who has gone up into the Uluguru mountains of Tanzania to work in a remote village. It takes four hours of walking to get there. There is no road, no phone service or electricity. Pray for her as she adjusts to a new lifestyle. Ask that she will walk closely to God and that the Luguru people will see Jesus in her.

The Lilongwe Urban Team in Malawi asks for prayer for the extended families of their missionaries. Many have elderly parents facing major health issues or major adjustments in living arrangements. Many have children in the United States in a university or children who are finding their way as young adults without parents close by for help.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 8th - 9th; (2) Please pray for believers to be protected among the Khmer Krom of Vietnam. Especially intercede for several believers who were put into prison because of their faithful witness.

Pray for Christian workers in Kolkata, India, as they work together to develop discipleship materials that can be used for new believers and new churches. Many new groups have been started over the last few months in areas outside Kolkata, and there is a need to develop a pattern for discipleship that can be used easily by others.

Roberto Souza, Northborough, Mass. is the ethnic church planting director with the Baptist Convention of New England. Pray for the 230 ethnic churches in New England, for ethnic churches to be started, and partners that will support new church planters.

Ron Cole, Snellville, Ga., is chaplain of pastoral care at Emory Eastside Medical Center. Pray for the ministry to hospital staff, patients, and families. Pray that God would draw hurting people to Himself in this place of help, hope, and healing.

For: (1) Hispanic Evangelism & Discipleship Conference, Central Hills, 20th - 21st (CPD/Evan); (2) Tom Day is the deputy installation Chaplain in the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss, Texas. Pray as chaplains minister to soldiers returning from Iraq and their families. Pray for those who made commitments while deployed and for reuniting families.

Missionaries Jeff and Karen Thomas, of Guatemala, request your intercession for their health and physical protection where they live and for continued development/advancement in the Pokomchi language. Also, Jeff asks for your prayers for wisdom as he tries to help the Pokomchi with their water problem.

For: (1) Single Adult Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 28th - 30th (D&FM); (2) Pray for the Khmer Krom in the province of Trat, Vietnam. In this province, most of the Khmer know very little about Jesus, but there is one church there for 2 million people.

A city of 1.3 Million, growing at 35,000 per year, Leon is in the central highlands of Mexico. It, like the surrounding seven-state region known as the Bajío, is steeped in old-world tradition. With less than 1 percent of the population being evangelical Christian, there is much resistance to the gospel. Please pray for the evangelization of Leon.

GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

June 24-25 Camp Garaywa Cost \$35

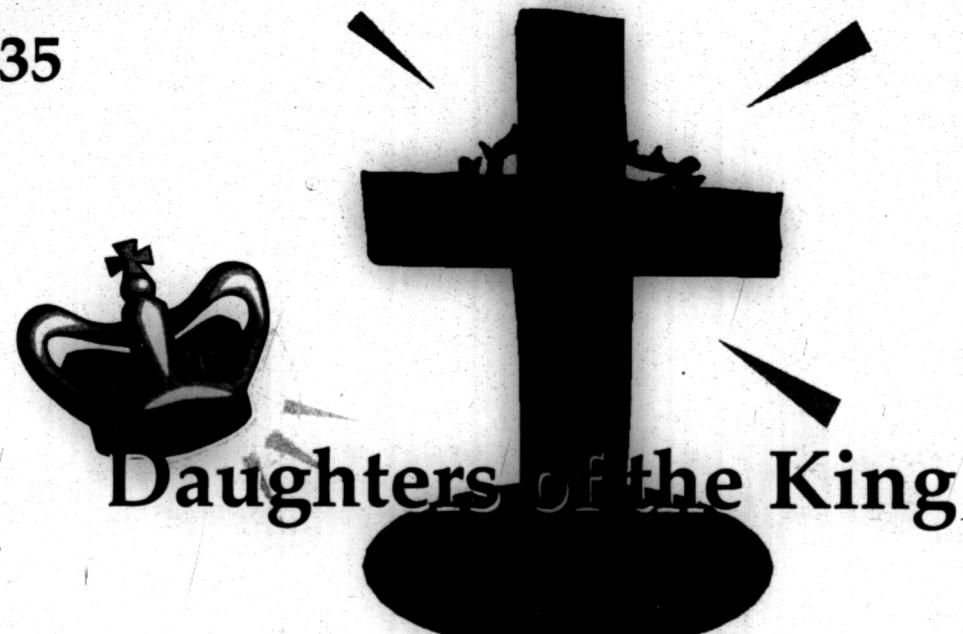
Mother/Daughter overnight is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (grades 1-6) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 7

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$40 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

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So you are the daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus — Galatians 3:26



1. Piano Ensemble, WCC



2. Haiti Mission Trip, WCC



3. Music Winners, WCC



4. Theater Award Winners, WCC

1. **William Carey College** music students and faculty participated in a Piano Ensemble Concert on the Hattiesburg campus recently. Participants in the concert included (back left to right) Shea Clanton, Kathy Vail, Derrick Meador, Nathan Sumrall, Wes Cameron, Howard Keever, Michael Rigney, Randall Harris, David Forbat, Anna Griffin, Ian Smith, Carlena Speed and (center left to right) Elizabeth Brooks, Nikki Vinson, Mary Whipps, Jake Lee, and Hillary Smith.

2. **William Carey College (WCC)** nursing student Ashley Watson, Slidell, La., is shown with a Haitian orphan during a recent mission trip to Haiti. Twelve WCC nurses, nursing students, and Sharon Thompson, missions coordinator at WCC, fed 500 needy families in a Haitian village.

3. Eight **William Carey College** students received cash awards at the 2005 Winters School of Music In-House Competition. Students compete in three categories: voice, piano, and guitar. In the voice division, Katrina Cox, Laurel, received a first place award. Brad Stephens, Columbia, placed second. In the piano division, Nathan Sumrall, Hattiesburg, received a first place award. Tabatha Ash, Forest, placed second. In the guitar division, Armin Abdihodzic, Bihac, Bosnia, received a first place award. Paulina Puljek, Krapina, Croatia, placed second. Franklin Adams of Hattiesburg and Alma Sehic of Bihac, Bosnia tied for third place.

4. The WCC Department of Theater recently honored students at its 2005 Awards Dinner. Award winners included Joel King, Purvis; Armin Abdihodzic and Alma Sehic, Bihac, Bosnia; Wesley Guthrie, Purvis; Abbie Hall, Wiggins; Vickie Hall, Richland; Mandy Jackson, Richland; Heath McNeese, Franklinton, La.; Kristen Miller, Purvis; and Josh Rivero, Carriere. Shown are, back row, Miller, Guthrie, McNeese, Jackson, and Rivero; front, Abbie Hall, King, and Vickie Hall.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hebron Christian School, Hebron Church, Pheba: Sports Camp, VBS, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; children just attending VBS, noon; pre-register at (662) 494-7513.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport: VBS, June 13-17. Ray Duplessie, VBS director; Jim Kultau, pastor; for information, call (228) 896-4556.

Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa: will host its Vacation Bible School May 23-27, 6-8 p.m.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org

STAFF CHANGES



Steve Lammons, former Golden Triangle Associational Missions Director, has accepted the pastorate of Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, effective May 15.

Hebron Church, Panola County, has called Terry Tribble as pastor. Tribble has served various churches in Mississippi since 1972.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MAY 1-15

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Decide to Obey God

Genesis 22:1-14

By Rick Henson

God tests believers. That may not fit in our neat ideas of how God works. We choose to ignore the first few verses in Job that tell us how God allowed Satan to attack Job, simply to prove that Job was genuine. God also tested Abraham as recorded in Genesis 22. The Hebrew word in Genesis 22:1 translated "tempted" has its roots in the word for banner. In other words, God demonstrated and displayed Abraham's faith through a trial. Being tested by God may not fit our theology, but it does prove our loyalty and improve our faith. 1 Peter 1:6-7 reads, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being

much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

After waiting twenty-five years for the realization of God's promise, Isaac was born. Soon God led Abraham to give up his only son. Some commentators and theologians claim that Abraham misunderstood God and that God would never lead Abraham to sacrifice his son. That view, however, is a contradiction of the biblical account that tells us that God certainly tested Abraham and that He did so to ascertain Abraham's fear of the Lord.

Abraham obeyed God and set off to the land that God



Henson

would show him. They traveled three days and reached Moriah. God showed Abraham which mountain to climb. As Abraham and Isaac climbed the mountain, Isaac asked his father, "Where is the lamb?" Abraham answered, "The Lord will provide."

As Abraham bound his son and prepared to obey the Lord, the angel of the Lord stopped him. Abraham instead sacrificed a ram caught in a nearby thicket. Abraham told Isaac, "the Lord provides." The place was known by the Hebrew term, "Jehovah Jireh," or, "the Lord provides." The final word is a derivative of the verb translated, "to see." Actually Abraham said, "The Lord will see to it." Philippians 4:19 reads, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God is the god of provision. God is

never late and never short. As a gospel song says, "We got an on-time God."

Many Bible scholars believe that Mt. Moriah was located at the same location that would eventually be known as Jerusalem. The text reveals that God showed Abraham where to build the altar. Think about it. God led Abraham on a three day journey to see if he was willing to sacrifice his only son, and led him to the very place where centuries later God himself would demonstrate His own willingness to sacrifice His only Son. On a hill chosen by God, Abraham proclaimed that the Lord would provide. God did indeed provide a sacrifice, not only to demonstrate His love for us, but also to pay for our sins for all time. Imagine in the timelessness of God that the site of the altar built on Moriah was where the ultimate altar would be.

At Moriah God provided a substitute sacrifice for Abraham's son, and at Calvary

God provided us with the substitute sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. At Moriah the sacrifice was a ram. At Calvary it was the Lamb of God. At Moriah God stopped Abraham from sacrificing his only son. At Calvary, Jesus willingly laid down His life, and He who knew no sin became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Abraham passed God's test. His faith and obedience was truly a banner to the Lord. In his obedience Abraham taught his son to be obedient to God, and he also taught him that God always provides. Obedience to God when it is convenient or easy is not obedience. If we will trust and obey, we must trust even when life is difficult, and we must obey, even when God asks much of us.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Avoid Arrogance

Jeremiah 50: 11-13, 24-25, 29-32

By Billie Buckley

With this lesson we close the book of Jeremiah for our study. How do we sum up his life and his message?

We can know with certainty that Jeremiah always made God's message credible and straightforward. How did he do this? He did not do it with flattering words telling people what they wanted to hear. Nor did he hide behind a cloak of hidden motives.

His integrity was based on his realization of God himself giving him the message. There are two questions we need to ask for our final study in Jeremiah.

The first question is, "What can we pinpoint from the life of the prophet Jeremiah?"

We find our answer in the New Testament in James 5:10-11. We paraphrase these verses to remind us to take old prophets as modern-day mentors.

Why? They put up with anything; went through everything; never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course, without arrogance, until God brings it all together at the end. This we can learn from the man Jeremiah.

The second question is, "What can we learn from the message God gave Jeremiah in Chapter 50 of our study for today?"

The key words of warning center on the arrogance of leaving God out of the equation. We learn from these verses and the Babylonians that arrogance is foolish, futile, and fatal.



Buckley

God's Message: Avoid foolish arrogance. (vv. 11-13) In this prophecy against Babylon, we see her arrogance over plundering God's chosen people. They rejoiced like a frisky calf and a neighing stallion over their exploration of the people of Judah. This made them ripe for the picking.

Never once did they seek God, ask for direction, or turn their face toward Him. How foolish can a nation or a person be for sinning against God in this manner? (vv 11-12)

Although God did use Babylon as His instrument to chasten His disobedient people, He would bring final judgment on the Babylonians because of their foolish arrogance. (v.13)

God's Message: Avoid futile arrogance. (vv. 24-25) Because of their futile arrogance, Babylon was caught in their own trap. God turned this around and

reminded them, "You are caught by My sovereign will that is over all armies of all nations."

How foolish they were to take on God with futile arrogance. In these verses they were warned of coming destruction: being smashed beyond recognition; being hammered by God breaking them, using the same hammer He used to get His children's attention.

God's Message: Avoid fatal arrogance. (vv.29-32.) Here the words fatal and final seem to go together. God always has the final word and His word was, "Because of your brazen defiance against me, you will pay. Time will run out and I will not be silent. But you will be silent forever."

Another harsh prophecy relating to their falling flat on their face was that no one was allowed to pick them up. Again their time had run out, but not ours. If we are in the land of Babylon surrounded by our arrogance, we must get out as fast as we can to avoid foolish, futile, or fatal results.

In closing, a few personal thoughts about the privilege of exploring this book closely by praying through it in 1977; teaching it through Explorer's Bible Study Classes in 1998; and writing about it for you the past three months. My hope is to add one more relationship for us. That is not only for us to pray it, teach it, and write about it; but to live its message spoken to us by God through His faithful prophet Jeremiah. I almost forgot to tell you. If God gives you an assignment, allow Him to do it through you. Do it just like Jeremiah did. He embraced and focused on His hard assignment from God and not what he assigned himself to do for the Lord.

May this time together have been a good Jeremiah focus, a good self focus, and most of all, a good God focus for us.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital

printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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UEQ CUAQ LAG AE U
GUESOI; DOVUMYO
PLOIO HUY ET ITTG NTI
PLOG AE PLO AEE.

CMBO PHT: YOZOE

Clue: C = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: *Titus Two: Eleven*.

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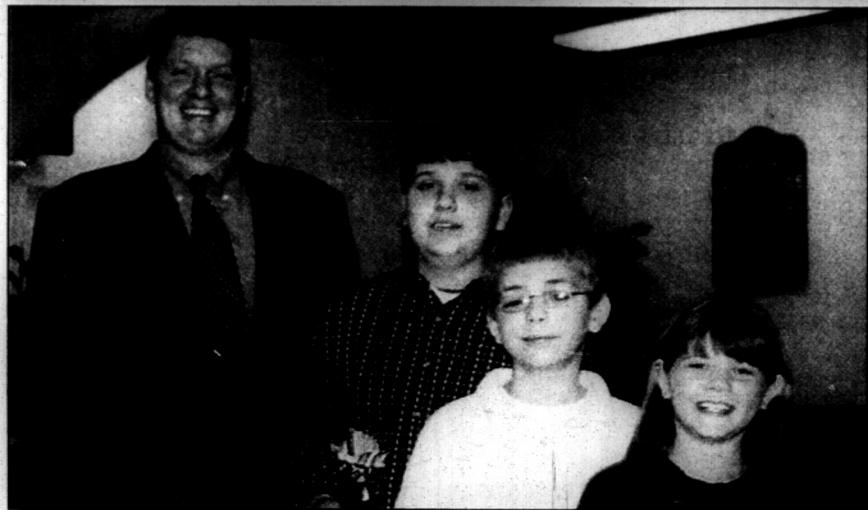
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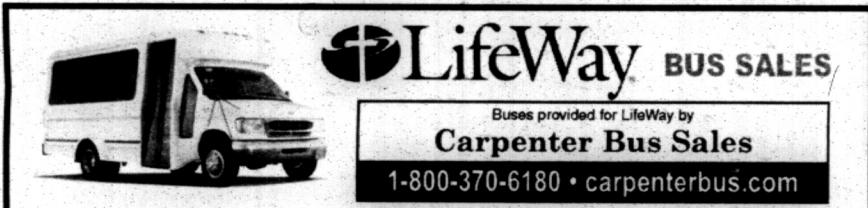
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Children's Bible Drillers, Locust Hill Church, Blue Springs



2. Ordination of Jack Dauphin, Center Hill Church, Hamilton



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FULL-TIME PASTOR: Send resumes to Parkview Baptist Church, pastor search committee, 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

1. **Locust Hill Church, Blue Springs**, recognizes its children's Bible Drillers. Shown are Timothy Bass, pastor; Evan Boyd, and Isaac and Samantha Henderson.

2. **Center Hill Church, Hamilton**, ordained Jack Dauphin to the gospel ministry May 1. Shown are Terry Edwards, pastor; Dauphin; and Jim Harrington, Associational Missions Director.

3. **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, will host a fish fry May 27, 7 p.m., to support two mission teams bound for Canada this summer. Tickets are \$7 and available in the church office. Call (601) 925-6424 for more information.

4. **Country Woods Church, Byram**, hosted the annual state Senior Adult Choir Festival May 3. Twenty-one choirs from across the state participated, along with the jazz ensemble of the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra.

5. **Meadow Grove, Brandon**, hosts a youth rally with Todd Agnew May 20, 7 p.m. Tickets are limited; call (601) 209-0277.



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